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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF BHUTAN

IPF:(1992-96) $27 892 000

(BHU/91/008) - Assistance to Technical and Vocational Education Training and Royal Bhutan Polytechnic, Deothang (Phase II)

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	16 December 1992
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Government implementing agencies:	Technical and Vocational Education Division (TVED), Royal Bhutan Polytechnic (RBP), Department of Education
Proposedsed UNDP contribution:	$ 1 172 600 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 1 172 600

Project background

Bhutan suffers from a shortage of skilled personnel and technicians. With the pace of development accelerating, this shortage has become all the more acute. In almost all the chapters of the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1992-1997), the shortage of skilled national personnel is cited as the major obstacle that will have to be overcome in pursuing social and economic development goals. In recent times, imbued with the spirit of self-reliance, the Government has embarked on a conscious effort to reduce the dependency on expatriate technical personnel.

The late introduction of the formal school system, the recent move towards technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and poor human resources planning are primarily responsible for the shortage of technical personnel and the low outputs (both qualitative and quantitative) of the country's technical training institutes.

In the light of the above, the proposed assistance to improve the quality of technical training, increase the number of trainees, and build up a TVET system in the country as an integral component of a national programme for technical and vocational education with substantial parallel financing from ADB of (US$5.85 m), is likely to have a major impact on the national strategy to develop human resources. Furthermore, the proposal to strengthen TVET must be viewed as a component of a much larger UNDP programme of assistance for Human Resources Development in Bhutan.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project have been designed to focus on two separate levels of the problem. At the macro-level, the project will focus on strengthening the recently reactivated Technical and Vocational Education Division (TVED), which has the mandate to plan, monitor, evaluate and coordinate technical education in an integrated and

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

intersectoral manner. A Steering Committee comprised of representative of key users and TVED, will further strengthen the intersectoral and coordinated programme approach to promote TVET in the country. Secondly, the assistance will be directed towards expandi and upgrading the Royal Bhutan Polytechnic at Deothang with the aim of doubling its outp by 1997 and improving the quality of training. The associated ADB loan would also provide for increased female participation in RBP through constructing a female hostel facility for 50 students. UNDP will facilitate the process by helping to design courses/facilities which respond better to the aspirations and needs of female students.

Inputs

UNDP will provide international expertise in the areas of civil, electrical and mechanical engineering (93.5 work-months) as well as UNV services in the same fields (144 work-months); in-service training aids; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	1 064 600
Subcontract	20 000
Training	15 000
Equipment	48 000
Miscellaneous	25 000
Total	1 172 600

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